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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**      November 7, 2005

**ALEXANDER COUNTY**  
**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**PRESENT:**    William L. Hammer, Chairman  
                 W. Darrell Robertson, Vice-Chairman  
                 Wesley E. Bolick  
                 W. Norris Keever  
                 Larry Yoder

**STAFF:**        Rick French, County Manager  
                 Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board

**MEDIA:**       Gary Herman, The Taylorsville Times

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, November 7, 2005 in the Catawba Valley Community College / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hammer called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Rev. Brian Eades, Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, gave the invocation and Amelia Bruce, student at Hiddenite Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Bolick felt the Board needed to send a letter of support to Delta Airlines to encourage their continued service to the Hickory Regional Airport. Commissioner Bolick informed the Board that Delta planned to stop its service to the Hickory Regional Airport soon which he did not want to see happen. He mentioned that he had flown with Delta from the Hickory Regional Airport recently and noted that Delta provided a great service for many people. He also stated that he did not have to pay any parking fees. The Board agreed to allow staff to draft the letter of support.

Commissioner Robertson pointed out that Commissioner Keever had knee replacement surgery two weeks ago and he commended Commissioner Keever for being present tonight at the meeting.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There was no one present to speak during the Public Comment Period.

### **CHARLOTTE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP REPORT**

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, introduced Ronnie Bryant, President and CEO of the Charlotte Regional Partnership, as well as Angie Lawry, Vice-President of Community Relations. He mentioned that being a part of the Charlotte Regional Partnership (CRP) was a very important tool in economic development efforts in Alexander County.

Mr. Bryant stated that there were 16 counties included in the CRP region and he noted that Alexander County was his 15<sup>th</sup> visited. He explained that the CRP was a marketing agent for the region's economic development and he noted that every county in the region received equal representation. He also felt it was very important to have a good relationship with counties. Mr. Bryant stated that he strongly believed that a county's investment in the CRP would result in a much higher return than if the county marketed themselves as a single county.

Commissioner Robertson pointed out that there had been some discussion in the past regarding hiring someone at the CRP to focus on helping the more rural counties and he asked if that position had ever been considered. Mr. Bryant replied that he had not been involved in any conversations regarding the creation of this position; however, he informed the Board that the CRP Economic Development Advisory Committee worked hard to make the playing field for each county in the region as level as possible. He also stated that things like spec buildings, available properties, and even quality of life greatly increased effectiveness of economic development in rural counties.

The Board thanked Mr. Bryant and Ms. Lawry for attending the meeting.

### **DISCUSSION OF 2006 MEETING DATES FOR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Rick French, County Manager, presented the following meeting dates for 2006 for information and discussion:

January 9, 2006  
January 23, 2006

February 6, 2006  
February 20, 2006

March 13, 2006  
March 27, 2006

April 10, 2006  
April 24, 2006

May 8, 2006  
May 22, 2006

June 6, 2006  
June 19, 2006

Mr. French explained that part of the tentative meeting schedule did not follow the first and third Mondays due to prior scheduled conferences and meetings as well as some holidays. He also noted that the proposed schedule would be placed on the November 21<sup>st</sup> or December 12<sup>th</sup> agenda for approval.

## **CLEAN ALEXANDER DAY REPORT**

Rick French, County Manager, gave a report of the Clean Alexander Days held in June and October 2005, which included the following information:

### **June 2005**

151.54 tons of trash collected  
60.10 tons at convenience sites  
617 vehicles at landfill  
1823 vehicles at convenience sites  
405 vehicles at Stony Point site  
131 vehicles at Vashti site

### **October 2005**

133.77 tons of trash collected  
42 tons at convenience sites  
511 vehicles at landfill  
1620 vehicles at convenience sites  
353 vehicles at Sugar Loaf site  
135 vehicles at Vashti site

Mr. French stated that the June Clean Alexander Day was two hours longer than the October day which ended at 4:00 PM. He also noted that there were not as many backups in October because of additional help from the County Maintenance staff. Mr. French requested this be an annual event and he suggested the next Clean Alexander Day be held on Saturday, October 28, 2006.

Commissioner Keever mentioned that provisions for disposal of hazardous materials would be provided at the next Clean Alexander Day. Mr. French agreed and noted that staff was working to get disposal of leaves and limbs included in the landfill contract for next year as well.



Chairman Hammer thanked the Maintenance staff for their assistance during the October Clean Alexander Day.

### **RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL TO PURCHASE AMBULANCE FOR EMS**

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, informed the Board that bids for a new ambulance for EMS were opened on October 28, 2005. He stated that 2 bids were received including a bid of \$108,950 from Northwestern Emergency Vehicles for a Ford with a C4500 chassis and \$105,300 from Southeast Marque for a Chevrolet with C4500 chassis. Mr. Greene explained that Alexander County had received the last 16 or so units from Northwestern Emergency Vehicles who had always provided excellent service; however, he noted that the new Chevrolet model was projected to last longer much longer than the Ford. Therefore, he recommended accepting the bid of \$105,300 from Southeast Marque.

Mr. Greene stated that this truck was being purchased with insurance proceeds as a replacement from the ambulance lost in a recent traffic accident. He also mentioned that a truck committee had been appointed consisting of the County Mechanic and one person from each EMS shift to look at and drive the trucks to determine which one suited their needs the best. Mr. Greene stated that there were no noticeable differences in the two trucks, only minor things such as air horns, side steps, and ceiling texture.

Mr. Greene also requested the Board allow him to possibly eliminate one of the options in order to purchase an extended warranty for \$880. He explained that the extended warranty would increase the warranty period from 5 years or 100,000 miles to 5 years and 200,000 miles.

Chairman Hammer felt that the Chevrolet would be the best choice. He discussed the many problems that had occurred with the Ford model and the poor service from the Ford Motor Company. He also explained that the hood of the Chevrolet model lifted up for easy access for repairs and service, unlike the Ford model that was cramped and extremely difficult to work on.

Commissioner Keverer inquired about the provisions for a replacement unit in the case that major repairs were needed to the ambulance purchased by the County. Mr. Greene replied that Southeast Marque would provide a replacement unit; however, he explained that it would probably be a Ford model since the Chevrolet models had just been introduced which meant there were not very many trade in models available for use as a temporary replacement unit.

Chairman Hammer made a motion to accept the bid of \$105,300 from Southeast Marque for a Chevrolet model ambulance and to allow staff to possibly eliminate an option in order to get the extended warranty. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #28**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendment #28, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #28 – To budget for consulting services for the sales tax reallocation audit. To budget for a Wal-Mart community grant for audiovisual materials for the Library.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #28. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the following issues during Other Business:

- A. The Jail Committee will meet on Monday, November 14, 2005 at the Alexander County Courthouse. The meeting will be held at 6:00 PM.
- B. County staff will be participating in a full-scale emergency training exercise on Saturday, November 19, 2005. The exercise will begin at 8:00 AM.
- C. Mr. French requested the Board declare 2 computers at EMS surplus as they are no longer in use.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to declare the 2 computers surplus. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from the October 17, 2005 Work Session and Minutes from the October 24, 2005 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests for November \$5,592.53 and Tax Refund Requests for November \$1,698.35.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 4, 5, & 6) TO PREVENT DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL**

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:56 PM to prevent the disclosure of confidential information and to discuss economic development, contractual matters,

and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 4, 5, & 6). Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Robertson made a motion to adjourn at 8:01 PM. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

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William L. Hammer, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board